

## District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



I hope you and your loved ones have been able to set aside time this summer to participate in some of the many recreational activities our city has to offer. As a reminder, the City Commission is on recess through Sunday, August 16, 2015. My regular Pre-Agenda Meetings resume on Monday, August 17 at 5:30 PM in the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

**Stranahan High School Needs Major Repairs** – I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have provided unwavering support for Stranahan High (my *alma mater*, Class of '71). You may have read about the deplorable conditions in the paper. To cite a few examples, the roof is collapsing, athletic facilities are unusable, walkways are rotting, there are no fire sprinklers or heat, there is evidence of mold, and the air-conditioning, plumbing, and electrical systems need work. On July 7, the City Commission unanimously adopted Resolution 15-154, urging the School Board to implement - as soon as possible - the major, long-overdue renovations (estimated at \$18 million), which have already been budgeted. And I will continue to advocate on behalf of the school until the renovations have been made.

**Budget Matters** – The City's latest "Popular Annual Financial Report" is now available online at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/finance/financial-reports>. This document provides a straightforward overview of the City's finances in a reader-friendly format. Our FY 2016 Proposed City Budget and Community Investment Plan (CIP) have been submitted to the City Commission. Public hearings are set for **Thursday, September 3 and Tuesday, September 8** at 6 PM in the City Commission Chambers. For the proposed budget, see <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/city-manager-s-office/budget-cip-and-grants-division/annual-budgets>. For the proposed CIP, the link is in the menu on the left when the Budget page opens.

**Gore Betz Park is Now Open!** In commemoration of July being National Parks and Recreation Month, we had a well-attended grand opening for this new park on July 11. Located at 1611 SW 9 Avenue in the River Oaks neighborhood, the park is also in close proximity to the Croissant Park and Tarpon River neighborhoods. In addition to the County Bond Program, which helped us purchase the land, we received two additional grants from the "Parks for People" Program. These grants enabled us to use a variety of green components in the park to minimize environmental impacts and promote long-term sustainability. As your Commissioner - and as a new grandfather - I am committed to preserving and enhancing green spaces, so our children and grandchildren can know what we already know: Fort Lauderdale is a great city to visit, but an even better place to call home.

**Riverwalk Ambassadors Needed!** Riverwalk and the City of Fort Lauderdale are seeking energetic, outgoing, enthusiastic volunteers to serve as Riverwalk Ambassadors. Openings are currently available on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 AM - 2 PM or 2 PM - 5 PM. Ambassadors will perform duties, such as welcoming neighbors and visitors, answering questions, and providing information about restaurants, shops, events, and activities taking place Downtown and along the Riverwalk. Above all, Ambassadors will help enhance the Riverwalk's identity as a vibrant, friendly, engaging Downtown Fort Lauderdale destination. To join our team (and earn community-service hours), please call 954-828-5568 or 954-298-5607 or log on to <http://www.goriverwalk.com>.

**Telephone Town Hall** – **Thursday, September 10 from 7 - 8 PM** is reserved for my Telephone Town Hall Meeting, and it's the last in the 2015 Series. Residents with listed phone numbers will receive a call prior to the start of the meeting. Neighbors can also call **Toll Free 1-888-409-5380** to join in. For audio recordings of past meetings, please visit <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/city-manager-s-office/public-affairs-office/telephone-town-hall-meetings>.

**New Curbside Tire Collection Program** – The City will now help you dispose of used tires the right way with a free program for Fort Lauderdale residents served by Republic Services. Here's how:

- On garbage collection days, place up to two passenger or light truck tires (up to 20 inch), with or without rims, on the ground next to your garbage bin before 7 AM. Do not place on or in your waste cart.
  - When the garbage collection driver spots your tires, a work order will be created and your tires will be collected within 24 hours.
  - A driver in a pick-up truck will remove your tires for environmentally responsible disposal.
  - As an alternative, tire collection services are available by calling our 24-hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000, or by submitting a service request on the City's Lauderserv app at [fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv](http://fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv).
- This service is available for up to four tires per household per year.

**Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off** – Aug. 1, 9 AM - 2 PM, Mills Pond Park, 2201 NW 9 Ave., Fort Lauderdale; Sept. 12, 9 AM - 2 PM, 4800 W Copans Road, Coconut Creek. For the guidelines, please refer to <http://gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/greener-government/recycling-waste-reduction/solid-waste-events/household-hazardous-waste-drop-off>.

- My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 - 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM - Noon (in non-Commission weeks). To schedule a meeting, contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or [mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov).